



Theoretical Inspiration

Artist Blog by Nika Sandler

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When working on the series “The World of Hedonia”[↗], I was inspired by Mark Fisher's book “Capitalist Realism”, where he accurately described my condition during the experiment. I realized that I was in “depressive hedonia” – the inability to do anything other than seek pleasure.

The project was also influenced by ideas from philosopher Paul B. Preciado's book “Pharmaco-pornographic Politics: Towards a New Gender Ecology”, in which he explored the connection between biopolitics and late capitalism. Here's my favorite quote from there:

“The success of contemporary techno-science consists in transforming our depression into Prozac, our masculinity into testosterone, our erection into Viagra, our fertility/sterility into the pill, our AIDS into Tri-therapy without knowing which comes first; if depression or Prozac, if Viagra or an erection, if testosterone or masculinity, if the pill or maternity, if Tri-therapy or AIDS.”

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Nika Sandler

Nika Sandler is an artist working with photography and text. She studied at the school of modern photography "Docdocdoc" and "Fine Art". She explores the themes of human and non-human gaze, gender, pleasure, creepy and disgusting. She was published in the magazines i-D, Libération, Der Greif, Phroom Platform, Calvert Journal, Metal Magazine, L'Oeil de la Photographie, BROAD, Bird in Flight, FK Magazine, Grandmama's Print, Float Magazine, ect. She is also the winner of the Small File Photo Festival 2023 organized by The Photographers' Gallery.